



*Dr. Mark Lundberg, Chair*

**Letter from the Chair and Program Manager**



*Cheryl Giscombe  
Program Manager*

Dear Community Residents of Butte County,

Welcome to our very first newsletter! We are proud to share the results of a growing community effort to ensure every young child in Butte County receives the support needed to enter kindergarten “healthy and ready to learn”.

This quarterly newsletter is intended to inform the community about the Commission’s progress, upcoming events, and feature articles about new or expanded services for young children and their families.

Butte County Children & Families Commission (BCCFC) was established after voters passed Proposition 10 in November 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to fund education, health, child care and other programs for expectant parents and children aged 0-5 and their families. The Commission was established to address the lack of public funding and support for early childhood development. A growing body of scientific evidence indicates that the emotional, physical, social and intellectual environment to which children are exposed has a profound impact on their ability to reach their greatest potential in school and in life.

The Commission’s work is shaped by these guiding principles:

**Focus on Families:** support families as children’s primary caregivers and first teachers. Respond to the voices and views of parents and caregivers.

**Promote Diversity and Service Accessibility:** ensure that families from all of Butte County’s culturally, linguistically, and geographically diverse populations, including those with disabilities and special needs, can connect to a system of services that is easy to access, use and understand.

**Support policy Development:** promote policy enhancements and system changes that will support the healthy development and school readiness of all Butte County children.

**Foster High Standards and Best Practices:** incorporate the highest quality standards for programs; utilize research to support promising and best practices.

We are excited about utilizing a statewide comprehensive Proposition 10 evaluation and data system known as PEDS, which will provide local and statewide information documenting the impact of the Commission’s efforts on the lives of children. The Commission has also committed substantial funding to implement an independent local evaluation of Proposition 10 activities in Butte County. These two combined evaluation efforts will provide valuable information on the effectiveness of specific programs, such as the School Readiness Initiative, which will be featured in our next newsletter.

Have a great summer!



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*"It's not only children who grow. Parents do, too. As much as we watch to see what our children do with their lives, they are watching us to see what we do with ours. I can't tell my children to reach for the sun. All I can do is reach for it, myself".*  
~Joyce Maynard

## Oroville Family Resource Center

-Submitted by Oroville Family Resource Center Staff



Many new and exciting changes occurred at the Oroville Family Resource Center during this past year. One of the most outstanding, however, would be the new expanded guidelines for participating in our Young Parents of Oroville (YPO) program. The program is now offering no-cost services to all parents, both moms and dads, up to the age of 24 years old.

YPO provides weekly parenting classes comprised of interesting and pertinent topics designed specifically for young parents. Recreational and social activities are also a large component of these services and are scheduled on a monthly and quarterly basis. Other activities are also available, including individual case management and in-home services for families. Transportation and

childcare are provided for parents who are enrolled in the program.

Our services focus on helping parents provide the best possible outcomes for their children. Research shows that increasing parenting skills and helping young parents to identify and achieve productive life goals for themselves and their children best attain these outcomes. Participation in the Young Parents of Oroville program offers young parents a wide variety of the tools necessary for making these goals a reality.

Anyone who is interested in participating in these activities or would like more information, please call the Oroville Family Resource Center at 530-534-9958.

Butte County First 5 Com-

mission and Parent Education Network sponsor YPO collaboratively.



Young Parents  
of  
Oroville



For A Brighter Future

*"Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see".*

-John W. Whitehead

## Dr. Ruby Payne Seminar @ CSUC

**On Wednesday, September 1, 2004, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM, Dr. Ruby Payne will present a workshop at California State University, Chico.** Dr. Payne is a noted expert in understanding the culture and language of poverty. Her in-service specialty is teaching individuals in the educational, child development, and social services professions how to successfully communicate with children and families affected by poverty. **For questions about registration please call Kathy Furtado, First 5 Glenn County at (530) 934-6882.** Registration has been extended, but space is filling fast. **Reserve your spot today!**

*This event is co-sponsored by:*  
First 5 Glenn County - Butte County Children and Families Commission - California State University,  
Chico Child Development Student Association - Glenn County Office of Education, Department of  
Child and Family Services





## Thanks to OPT for Fit Kids, French Fries May Be Off The List!

-Submitted by OPT For Fit Kids Staff

CHICO, Calif.—The most popular vegetable consumed by toddlers in America today is french-fries, a 2003 national survey conducted by Gerber Products Company revealed. Overweight Prevention and Treatment (OPT) for Fit Kids and Butte County preschools, particularly the Head Start program, have teamed up to counter this alarming statistic. Recent studies have shown their efforts have proved successful.

The Lifelong Eating and Activity Patterns (LEAP) curriculum was developed by the OPT program to teach preschool children and their parents the importance and value of eating fruits and vegetables and how to use that knowledge to build a successful foundation of healthy eating habits. A recent study conducted by Chico OPT for Fit Kids staff revealed children were more likely to taste fruits and

vegetables after completion of the five-week long program. The study also revealed children in the program increased their knowledge about fruits and vegetables by learning their names, where they came from and what they tasted like. LEAP uses popular children's books and hands-on activities with fruits and vegetables to make the program interesting for the preschool children involved. The study was conducted from September to December 2003 and involved 149 preschool children from Butte County.

A major component of the program is teaching children the importance of eating at least five servings of fruit and vegetables each day. Studies have shown that children need to be exposed to new foods at least five times before they learn to enjoy them. Nutrition and fitness tips were sent home with

the children so they could share what they learned with their parents. Because of LEAP's success, OPT for Fit Kids and local preschools will continue the program throughout the school year.

OPT for Fit Kids is a local program funded by the Butte County Children and Families Commission to help prevent and treat childhood obesity in Butte County.

Anyone interested in learning more about the LEAP program should contact OPT for Fit Kids at (530) 345-0678 in Chico, (530) 533-1725 in Oroville or visit their Web site at [www.optforfitkids.org](http://www.optforfitkids.org).



***Anyone who thinks the art of conversation is dead ought to tell a child to go to bed.***

-Robert Gallagher

*The most important period of life is not the age of university studies, but the first one, the period from birth to the age of six.*

...Maria Montessori

## News and Events

- We have just completed our 2004 RFP process. Please see page 4 for a complete list of grant awards. **Great job, applicants!**
- Commission meetings are scheduled for March 19, May 21, July 16, September 17, and November 19, 2004. For more info, please call (530) 538-7964.

- Submissions for the BCCFC newsletter are always welcome! Deadline for inclusion in the Fall 2004 is August 31, 2004. Please call the office for more info or email [sbillings@buttecounty.net](mailto:sbillings@buttecounty.net).
- The CCF Clearinghouse offers excellent, low cost early childhood development and parenting resources to County

Children & Families Commissions and Prop.10 funded organizations by calling 1-800-245-1512 or through their Web site at : [www.cccclearinghouse.org](http://www.cccclearinghouse.org).

- Would you like to join our email contact list? Call the Commission office at 530-538-7964 or email [sbillings@buttecounty.net](mailto:sbillings@buttecounty.net).
- **Visit us on the web at:** [www.cccf.ca.gov/butte](http://www.cccf.ca.gov/butte).

***"Listen to the desires of your children. Encourage them and then give them the autonomy to make their own decisions."***

-Denis Waitley



## New Services for Young Children and Families



Butte County Children & Families Commission recently considered 30 proposals received from local organizations and agencies wishing to provide services for young children ages 0-5 and their families. The following is a description of the 10 successful grant proposals funded by the Commission:

1. **Butte County Department of Public Health awarded \$273,005.** The Children's Dental Health Care Project is an innovative, multi-faceted approach to decrease the incidence of dental disease in underserved children ages 0-5. Focus is on increasing treatment services for young children through expanded dental care services, focusing community efforts, and providing case management activities. Project contact person is Kiyomi Bird, PHN Supervisor - Phone: (530) 538-2147.
2. **California State University, Chico – Research Foundation awarded \$275,000.** OPT for Fit Kids will provide materials and services to child care homes, offer cooking/nutrition classes in high need geographical areas throughout Butte County, and breastfeeding promotion activities. The project will collaborate with other county agencies by providing materials and trainings for agencies that are making home visits. Project contact person is Cindy Wolff PhD, MPA, and RD – Phone: (530) 898-5700.
3. **Community Action Agency awarded \$100,000.** \* Expansion of the Child Development Center (CDC) at the Esplanade House. Esplanade House Transitional Shelter will increase the number of families served from 12 to 60, serving approximately 120 children. Resources will be provided to hire and train child development staff, purchase age appropriate curriculum and supplies, and provide day-to-day services, as population grows by 48 families. Project will provide a 12-month period for the Esplanade House CDC to become self-sustaining through collaboration and fiscal management. Project contact person is Mark Murgia, Associate Director – Phone (530) 538-7559.
4. **Butte County Department of Public Health awarded \$275,000.** This initiative will increase and sustain the number of women who breastfeed in order to promote optimal health, cognitive development, and infant-mother bonding. To do so, a new center will be established to provide breastfeeding education and supportive services as part of a coordinated effort with other community resources to mothers not currently being served due to factors of income, insurance coverage, or language barriers. Project contact person is Julie Wetmore – Phone (530) 895-6543.
5. **Valley Oak Children's Services awarded \$275,000.** Project will use programs and curricula scientifically studied and proven to be effective in the prevention and treatment of conduct disorders in young children, and helping child care staff to manage classrooms and family child care home settings. Comprehensive longitudinal evaluation component will be included to measure social and emotional behavior change over both the short term (6 mo) and long term (3 yr). Project contact person is Carol Roberts, Executive Director – Phone (530) 895-1677.
6. **Northern Valley Catholic Social Services awarded \$275,000.** Project will expand current services offered to pregnant and parenting teens. Three components will be offered to teen parents of 0-5 year old children through this project: 1) in-home parenting classes throughout Butte County; 2) young fathers support & education groups in Chico; and 3) counseling for teen parents in Chico and Oroville. Referrals will be accepted from any source. All services are free of charge. Transportation and participation incentives are included. Project contact person is Justine Lehman, Program Manager – Phone (530) 345-1600.
7. **Parent Education Network awarded \$275,000.** Project will augment the Current Young Parents program to include a strong Young Fatherhood component and to expand the program to all of south Butte County. Project will enhance fathers' involvement, and assist them in integrating fully in their child's life, especially during the formative years of 0-5. Increase fathers' involvement with the mother regarding parenting styles and issues (co-parenting), educate fathers on being responsible and being a role model for their children, and to truly integrate the father into the child's life. Project contact person is Dana Campbell, Executive Director – Phone (530) 893-0391.

...New Services, continued on page 5



\* Playground Area -  
Esplanade House Child  
Development Center



... New Services, continued from page 4

8. **Youth for Change awarded \$275,00.** Project provides in collaboration with Northern Valley Catholic Social Services, Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services and other service entities, preventative services targeting 0-5 children and their families needing assistance, but not rising to the level of intervention provided by Children's Services. Project will partner with other service agencies to develop a comprehensive network of resources and opportunities in Oroville and surrounding areas to ensure that families receive a customized assessment of need and the appropriate response. Project staff will respond jointly with local service agencies on less serious referrals in order to maximize resources. Project contact person is Yvonne Nenandal, Program Administrator – Phone (530) 872-3896.
9. **Enloe Medical Center awarded \$275,000.** The Clean Start, Healthy Beginnings program (CSHB) will increase the number of babies born free from substance exposure by 10 babies, from 10 to 20 per year. Provide pre and post-natal medical case management to improve the health of young children who have medical or psychosocial needs. Screen all children who are in Touchstone childcare for health and developmental concerns and current immunization status, connecting them with a medical home when needed. Work with families to decrease use of the Emergency Rooms for non-emergency medical services for children. Early identification, assistance and referral to treatment for pregnant and parenting mothers with substance problems. Project contact person is Jolene Nixon – Phone (530) 332-6831.
10. **Skyway House awarded \$275,000.** \*\* Project provides several service components. First, this project addresses the issue of reduction of the number of babies who are born with the effects of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. Second, the program will intervene early in the new baby's care and in the care of the other siblings who stay with the mother during her treatment, to improve parenting, positively affecting the health of children and their ability to develop within normal parameters. The program will provide drug free housing to aid in the development of health, stable support systems, including connection to services such as Early Head Start and Public Health. It is the goal that mothers will leave the program with identified personal contacts that can support them in their continuing recovery and the nurturing of their family. Project contact person is Beth Porter, Program Manager – Phone (530) 876-9436.



\* **Computer stations at the Esplanade House Child Development Center.**



\*\* **Playroom and Equipment - Skyway House's Teaching Recovery And Care for Kids (TRACK) Program**



\*\* **Kitchen Facilities - Skyway House TRACK Program.**

## Enloe Aims For Success – One Family At A Time!

The Clean Start, Healthy Beginnings program (CSHB), funded in part by the Butte County Children & Families Commission, provides a collaborative model that takes into account the medical and recovery needs of families.

A recent example of program success involved an infant with asthma who was receiving breathing treatments with an electric nebulizer unit who was going to be affected by a disruption in electrical power at her transitional living facility. The infant's mother thought that staying with a previous partner was a good solution, but the Nurse Practitioner (NP) was aware that this contact could be a trigger for relapse. The NP collaborated with the CSHB program's nurse who explored the availability of battery-powered nebulizers. When this option was unavailable, the CSHB nurse collaborated with the Touchstone Case Manager who arranged for a night in a motel through "Catholic Ladies." This plan supported the mother's recovery and met the child's medical needs.

Clean Start, Healthy Beginnings is a nursing and social work program designed to meet the special needs of high-risk children ages 0-5. Prenatal and Pediatric care are a major focus. The program aims to ensure that children are born free of drugs and alcohol and receive care to meet their medical and developmental needs. Women attending Touchstone Perinatal Treatment Services are also screened for medical problems and provided with health education and medical management. For more information about the program, please contact Jolene Nixon, Director of Clinical Services at 530-332-6831.



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